

THE HOME PAGE

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REGATHERING FOR WORSHIP AT EARLE STREET

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD."
Psalm 150:6

Here in the fall of 2020, the health and safety of our congregation are extremely important to us. Likewise, it is also crucial that we stay connected to each other, to our church family, and most importantly, to God. With much thought, consideration and planning, we've developed several different ways for our church family and guests to worship each week here at ESBC. We all have to learn how to worship together safely and proactively, remembering to treat each member of our church family with value and respect.

Back to the Building: On campus/in-person worship

Beginning Sunday, October 4, we are excited to regather on our campus for in-person worship in our sanctuary and overflow rooms. A tremendous amount of thought and planning has gone into preparing for our regathering on campus. While we realize our services at this time will not be an optimal experience, it is a first step to returning to worship on campus. And it is a way that we can worship together in person while still caring for each other.

Hopefully you have read our covenant and plan for regathering as it contains many important details. If you haven't read this document yet, please be sure and read it prior to October 4. The covenant and plan are included again in this newsletter for your review.

Here are some important details for you to remember:

- Register online for the service you wish to attend.** The reservation link will be available on our web site on Wednesday mornings each week. If you plan to attend in person but don't have access to technology to make your reservation, you may call the church office Wednesday through Friday. Since we will be observing social distancing guidelines, the seating capacity in our sanctuary will be limited to approximately 30%. Once the sanctuary is at capacity, we will utilize our overflow rooms. So it's important that you register in advance for which service you desire to attend.
- Have your masks ready to wear.** We are asking everyone second grade and up to wear a mask and use hand sanitizer. There will be hand sanitizer available in several locations as you enter and exit the building.
- Enter at the Welcome Center.** We will all enter the building through the Welcome Center and exit through the front doors to the Sanctuary, maintaining a one-way flow through the building. The doors at the Welcome Center will open at 8:30 for the 9:00 am service and at 10:30 for the 11:00 am service. The building will be closed between services for cleaning.
- Look for the volunteer hosts.** There will be ESBC church members volunteering throughout the building to help you navigate the new process.
- Call if you have questions!** Any member of our church staff is happy to talk with you regarding our regathering processes. Don't hesitate to call and ask your questions.
- Volunteer to help.** We need more volunteers to facilitate this regathering. If you plan to attend, please offer to serve as a host and help make this regathering possible.

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."
Romans 12:10

Watch Online: Live streaming of worship

We realize that not everyone is ready or able to return to in-person worship in October. Some members of our church family may choose to continue to worship at home until our seating capacity is increased or childcare is available for preschoolers. So watching our services live-streamed on Sunday mornings is the perfect way to join in worship. Both worship services will be live streamed via the ESBC YouTube channel, where they will also be archived for viewing at a later time. If you need assistance in learning how to watch our live stream via YouTube, please call the church office and we will be happy to assist you.

Listen On Your Phone: Recordings of worship

For members of our church family who can't watch online or worship in-person, our worship services are recorded and available via our phone streaming service. Anyone with a phone – land line or cell – can call and listen to the service. Just call 732-ESBC (3722) and follow the prompts.

Welcome Home

No matter how you choose to worship with us, we want to encourage you to stay engaged and involved in our church. If you have any questions about the three ways you can join us for worship, we invite you to reach out to one of our ministers or call the church office. Together we can live "the greater way."

JOIN US IN WORSHIP {VIRTUALLY}

Sunday, September 20
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude: *Grace* by Debbie Blume, pianist and Gwen Miller, organist

Hymn: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Children's Message: Karli Selz

Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-19

Sermon Series: YOU ARE HERE

Sermon: “**You Are Here, Being Transformed**”
by Stephen Clyborne

Anthem: *Father of Light* by the Sanctuary Choir;
Lyn Reames, soloist

JOIN US IN WORSHIP {OUTDOORS}

Sunday, September 20
Parisview Baptist Church at 6:30 pm

Testimony: Margo Love

Message: “It Gets Late Early” by Stephen Clyborne

Scripture: James 4:13-17

Music: Rosemary Cureton, piano

WORSHIP {VIRTUALLY} WITH US

Worship Videos

As a reminder, you can access our weekly worship videos on Facebook, YouTube and our website. If you've not done so already, email info@esbcgreenville.org to be added to our mailing list. You will receive the newsletter electronically, a sermon preview and a direct link to the worship video.

Phone Streaming Service

Would you like to listen to the weekly worship service but don't have internet access, a smart phone or computer? We are excited to announce that we have implemented a new phone streaming system which will allow anyone with a phone – land line or cell – to listen to our worship services. It's as simple as calling a local phone number, following the prompts, and listening to the service!

Just call 732-ESBC (3722) and you can listen to the recorded service from the previous Sunday morning. We encourage you to call the number and join us for worship!

VIRTUAL BIBLE SURVEY CLASS Walk through the Bible with Our Pastor

In my kind of work, it is not uncommon for me to hear people say:

“The Bible doesn’t make sense to me.”

“I started trying to read the Bible, but I got lost.
So I gave up.”

“I don’t know how to connect the dots. Everything in the Bible seems so disconnected and hard to understand.”

That is why, every six years, I teach all the way through the Bible. Now in my eighteenth year at Earle Street, I will be teaching through the Bible for the third time. It’s one of my most favorite things to do, and I would love for you to join me for the first time, or for a refresher course. This course will be a survey of the whole Bible -- the Old Testament (in the Fall) and the New Testament (in the Winter and Spring) -- and will be a rare opportunity to see how all the pieces of the Bible fit together. The approach taken will be historical, literary, and academic -- but will also be devotional and inspirational as the truth of Scripture comes alive in new and exciting ways. There will be continuity from week-to-week. You can take it at your own pace because this time, the course will be virtual, pre-recorded sessions, which means that you can access the sessions at your convenience. You should not have to miss a single session, and you can even binge watch! A new session will be available each Sunday. You may access the video sessions by [clicking here](#), or if you need assistance, you may contact Ellen in the church office at 233-5332 (ext. 205) or ellen@esbcgreenville.org. For a study guide, you may [click here](#) or contact Ellen to receive a study guide by email or postal mail, or you may pick up a study guide in the church office.

This will be a different way for us to learn together, but I am looking forward to walking through the Bible with you this year.

-Stephen

SEEK TO LEARN WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW

As many of us struggle to understand systemic racism, injustice and discrimination within our country, a common question arises: “What can I do?” An important first step is to educate yourself about racial injustice and the pain in America that exists now and has for many years. We have ordered a variety of books for our church library that can help you start this education process. Two of these books have arrived and are ready for you to check out and read:

[White Fragility](#) by Robin DiAngelo
[The New Jim Crow](#) by Michelle Alexander

If you are interested in checking out one of these books, simply call the church office and we can make arrangements to get the book to you. Once the other books arrive, we'll provide their titles and availability.

IN MEMORIAM

BETTY JO CAMPBELL

January 20, 1932 - September 13, 2020

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Steve and Fran Clark, Emory and Martha Hendrix, and Wake and Anna Fickey and family in the recent death of Steve's mother, and Martha and Anna's grandmother, Martha Clark.

Steve and Gage Taylor and family upon the recent death of Gage's father.

Jack and Kay Traynham and family in the recent death of Jack's sister, Betty Traynham McConnell.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Charlie Carnes Jackie Chapman

Miles Rizzo Edith Sumner

BUDGET REPORT

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$28,228
Budget Gifts (this week)	\$20,656
Budget Requirements to Date	\$1,044,436
Budget Gifts to Date.....	\$1,022,735

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Benevolence Ministry.....	\$6,648
Covid-19 Disaster Relief	\$6,664
Earle Street Academy Teachers Support	\$9,483

From the Minister Of Music and Worship

Janice Hinnant (ext. 202) – janice@ESBCgreenville.org

Ever since I was a young child, I have always been drawn to hymns. In my early years, hymns were the first songs I ever learned. As I grew older, though, hymns were still an important part of my life. I have said many times that we sang our theology long before we understood it. In the last several months, I have relied on hymns for comfort. One hymn I did not grow up singing, but one that I have enjoyed learning is *Teach Me Your Way*. I especially love the third stanza:

*When doubts and fears arise, teach me Your way!
When storm clouds fill the skies, teach me Your way!
Shine through the wind and rain,
through sorrow, grief, and pain;
Make now my pathway plain, teach me Your way!*

May it be so.

From the Minister To Preschoolers and Children

Karli Selz (ext. 209) – karli@ESBCgreenville.org

PICNIC-N-PLAY

Make plans now to join us for a Picnic-N-Play! This event is for all preschoolers and children. We will gather at Gower Park on Saturday, September 19 from 9:00 to 11:00 am! I can't wait to see you all there!

VOLUNTEERS

In order for us to be able to move forward with Preschool and Children's Programming we will need an adequate number of volunteers. Since many of our beloved longtime Sunday School leaders are unable to continue due to COVID concerns we will need extra hands to make childcare available on Sundays. If you are interested in volunteering on Sunday mornings please contact me at karli@esbcgreenville.org.

DRIVE-THRU FLU SHOT CLINIC

Monday, September 21 – 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Covered Drive-thru of Earle Street Baptist Church
Sponsored by the Medical Ministry Team of ESBC

You can simply drive up to receive your shot, never having to leave your vehicle!

Masks are required to be worn by clients receiving the immunization. Masks will be worn by the pharmacist and any assisting staff.



FROM THE PASTOR

Stephen Clyborne

The occasion for the parable in Luke 12:13-21 is that Jesus is teaching the multitudes when He is suddenly interrupted by a man who has a question about his inheritance: "Teacher, make my brother divide our inheritance with me," he said. And if you have any experience at all with dividing inheritances, then you know that often, when inheritances are divided, so are families. This was especially the case in first-century Palestine, where disputes about inheritances were very common. The social arrangement of the family was such that the oldest son assumed control of the estate the moment the father died, and he acquired the responsibility for settling the estate with all the other siblings. In this case, apparently, an older brother must have been dragging his feet when it came to dividing the family inheritance, and a younger sibling was attempting to get Jesus involved in the process because there was no court system to handle such family conflicts. Interestingly enough, Jesus' response was curtly negative, almost rude. Basically, Jesus refused to get dragged into this family dispute.

But because inheritances usually expose the greed in families, He used this request as an occasion to tell a story. But before Jesus told the story, He gave the reason for telling it: "Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for a person's life does not consist in the abundance of his or her possessions." In other words, what a person *has* does not define what a person *is*. We are more than what we own. We are worth more than what we possess. We receive more than what we deserve. So we already know where Jesus is going with this story. And when he tells the story, the lead character sounds like he is living the American dream.

The lead character is a wealthy farmer who had a bumper crop one year. But he made his first mistake when *he* assumed that he was the owner, the controller, and the possessor. Note the times in this story that he used first-person pronouns, even to the point of consulting his favorite expert for advice: himself. When you're this rich, this spectacularly successful, you don't need to consult with anybody else except yourself. All conversation is monologue, a conversation only with self -- acting as if there is no one outside himself to consider -- not even God. But as the psalmist wrote, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'" There is just me, myself, and my achievements. It's all mine to be managed by me. There is no transcendent, external, higher claim laid upon me and my possessions other than my own comfort, contentment, and pleasure -- and certainly no connection between my resources and my responsibilities.

So, Jesus said, this man thought to himself, "Self, what shall I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And then I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."

Most of us would not find any fault in this rich man. Quite to the contrary, most of us would consider him not just successful, but smart. He made his money in an innocent way. He earned it honestly. He must have been hard working, for his land brought forth plentifully. Hard work is a virtue. He invested and expanded. And he made provisions for his future, a nest egg so he could take it easy in his retirement years. By American standards, this man sounds smart. But God called him a fool -- not because he was wealthy, but because he made the mistake of thinking that it was all about him. The story ends with God having the final word to this rich man: "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" The more you have, the more likely it is to have you. I know it's trite to say, but it is still true: you can't take it with you. You never see a hertz pulling a U-haul, or pockets in a shroud. When the story is over, Jesus adds his commentary: "So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God." So in death, we shall all be separated from the things we possess. And in that sense, death will force us to be generous -- to give up all we have. We will give it up now, or we will give it up later. But we will give it up. And when we finally lose our grip on earthly treasure, then all we will have is the treasure we have laid up in heaven.

2020 DEACON ELECTION

An e-blast will be sent out early next week with the electronic ballot attached. All ESBC church members are invited and encouraged to vote for up to six (6) individuals. Please be sure and complete your ballot by Sunday, September 27. If you are unable to vote electronically and would like a paper ballot, please call the church office.